



Celebrating Creative Independence



As traditional, all our chapters produced events in their areas in honor of World Art Day in their own creative styles.

In honor of the 250th anniversary of the USA our FL Chapter also made it a tribute to our vets, without whom we would have no independence to create at all!

On April 19th they produced an event at the Imagine Museum in St Petersburg in true patriotic style. Guests entered the museum reception where Angel Kourkoulou brought an American Eagle to life on canvas while Roger Harrison accompanied her on piano.

The artwork of several of our members adorned the reception area of this prestigious glass museum. Angel Kourkoulou created a painting that represents our group. It was unveiled at the event

A showcase of talent proceeded to uplift the audience with song, dance and poetry. The grand finale was the band Barcode performing God Bless America. All veterans in attendance came to the stage and sang along with the band. Copies of *The Universal Declaration of Human Rights* books were given out to attendees, as this is one of the campaigns we support.

Event Feedback: What decisions have you made as a result of the event?

"I have decided to help the Human Rights group more."

"To Create more Art." BC

"Get Busy on my art!" MT

"To keep pushing on reaching my goals" AE



Watch the event:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VjjaY1k4XvE>

"Creation is a system; it is the dance of wholeness in which everyone participates." ~ Dr. Arthur Chang

ARTISTS FOR A BETTER WORLD INTERNATIONAL NEWSLETTER

July 2026

Los Angeles Chapter

Home is where the Art Is:

Becky Mate, Founding Member of AFABW hosted a traditional World Art Day Party on 19 April 2026

Becky established Art Day years ago after taking part in AFABW events and realizing the need for a holiday for artists. She used her home at the time to launch the first event, and each year follows in this intimate style that makes all feel welcome.

Becky took to heart this year's theme for the 250th year of our country "Celebrate Creative Independence" where artists have always been free to dream, create the future and give hope.

Mate said, "I held this annual party as an example of how one can invite artists and celebrate World Art Day. I've always suggested that everyone Give the Gift of Art. It was time for me to set an example with a Free Art Giveaway. Without prompting, other artists donated works to this effort. Each attendee left with one piece of art that spoke to them."

This year's Featured Artist was Sylvie Abrams of Sunland, member of the Glendale Art Association, who paints animals, landscapes and abstracts in oil. Two of Becky Mate's paintings hid under velvet until the reveal during the arts party.

The Mistress of Ceremonies, Jill Meunier, known as "The Dog Poet," shared poems which reflected the innermost thoughts of our furry friends. Other poets who read were Alice Pero and Joe DeCenzo.



Becky Mate & Enrique Carillo



Bella Hurtado &
Sylvie Abrams



Jill Meunier

There was an arts table for children, and some wooden toys created by finish carpenter Rick Bittle. Thirty *The Way to Happiness* books were given out to attendees.

And everyone feasted on the aesthetics throughout the day!

Deep in the Art of Texas

AFABW TX celebrated World Art Day at by having an art party on April 10th at the home of Michelle Platt, the chapter director.

Each attendee brought an art project to work on as Michelle provided extra supplies for the artists. They worked together in joyous camaraderie, sharing tips and encouragement.



Michelle also shared the new AFABW newsletter with everyone that features TX chapter member Barbara McFadyen. Barbara, professionally known as Stazja, shared some of her poetry about flowers, appropriate for the season.

Everyone agreed it was fun and suggested they make a monthly activity of it.

**"To be an artist is to believe in life."
~ Henry Moore**

ARTISTS FOR A BETTER WORLD INTERNATIONAL
NEWSLETTER

July 2026

Featured Member
Roger Harrison

**Pianist, Composer, Singer, Band Leader,
Humanitarian and
AFABW Member**

How did you get into the music field?

Originally my parents had me take piano lessons starting at age nine. This progressed into my teens when I began playing for a local church. The lessons were oriented around classical music. At the time I was unable to improvise.

In college I continued with classical piano studies. Later I became interested in jazz, especially John Coltrane. I really admired his idea of healing the world through music and wanted to emulate his purpose. Private jazz piano lessons followed, and I sort of "blossomed" into perhaps an advanced beginner. That's when I got my first gig! From there more private lessons and self-study followed, which I still do, to this day.

What are some of your biggest accomplishments?

Some years ago, I co-wrote a song called Mystery which was part of a movie. Recently my band performed a concert at radio station WUSF studios of my original compositions. It was recorded and disseminated widely.

How has your music affected others?

One of the more startling examples was when I performed at a nursing home. Sitting at the piano I saw a clearly disturbed woman being led into the seats where I was performing. She was talking gibberish and flailing a bit.

As I sang a song for the audience, I noticed her singing along. I later left the piano to talk with her



Roger Harrison

and found her quite lucid. She was no longer acting weird. She told me about her upbringing and her family's love of music. She was like a different person.

After a recent performance at the Imagine Museum, an attendee said, "Roger makes me feel alive", and another said, "This music touches my soul and makes me happy!"

What advice do you have for those that want to do their music or other art form for a living?

Decide to focus on business skills. If you want to earn money then you have to know about marketing, sales, Search Engine Optimization (improving a website to increase its visibility when people do searches), and similar topics. No matter how good your art is, if you've not figured out how to market it you won't be able to make a living.

Realize that's a big task and be persistent in reading, experimenting and mastering the "business" part of show business.

Studying and applying (continued on page 4)

*"The Spirit is but a canvas to our
imagination." ~ Henry David Thoreau*

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(continued from page 3.)

L. Ron Hubbard's administrative technology has been a foundation for me.

What interested you in joining AFABW?

AFABW has the lovely purpose of uplifting through the arts. They also use the technology of L. Ron Hubbard in their activities, which has helped with the group's success. It totally aligns with my purposes!

You can visit
Roger at:



theharrisonjazzband.com



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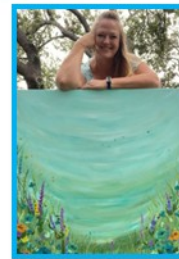
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"A culture is only as great as its dreams, and its dreams are dreamed by artists." ~ L. Ron Hubbard

ARTISTS FOR A BETTER WORLD INTERNATIONAL NEWSLETTER

July 2026

Europe Chapter Inspiring Creativity

On 11 April 2026, our Europe chapter inspired community and creativity at the Church of Scientology of Zurich for World Art Day AFABW Director Amelie Egenolf worked with Church staff to host a vibrant and inspiring art event that brought together artists, performers and public, in a shared celebration of creativity and social engagement.

Engagement extended beyond the exhibition space and guests got Get High on Art Say no to Drugs coloring books along with *The Way to Happiness*, books helping to spread awareness and encourage participation.

A diverse and high-quality artistic program enriched the experience. Feri Arnold and Thomas Frei captivated the audience with a one-hour photo show accompanied by their original poetry.

Internationally acclaimed soprano Laura Ansaldi delivered a powerful and memorable performance, demonstrating the artistry that has earned her global recognition and numerous awards.

Musical contributions also included Kurt Wicki on saxophone and Beat Neurohr on flute, adding depth and atmosphere to the event.



Beat Neurohr



Kurt Wicki, Amelie Egenolf, Nelly Black,
& Helga Farkas

Visual art also played a central role throughout the day.

Franz Habermacher engaged visitors with a live painting session, while artists Amelie Egenolf, Andrea Anrein, Nelly Beck, Helga Farkas, and Alcindo Moreira presented a wide range of artworks, showcasing diverse styles and perspectives.

Overall, the Zürich art event not only celebrated creativity but also strengthened connections and inspired future collaboration.



Franz Habermacher

"I really loved the Event and have now become a member of AFABW." -E.S.

"I liked the Event very much and want to become a member in the Future. And would love to help organize a big art event too." -N.B.

"Thank you, you did an amazing job. Art definitely helps create a better world and elevates people to a higher level. The event was very special and professionally organized, with many artists and a wonderful atmosphere. The audience was thrilled." -V.S.

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"The purpose of art is washing the dust of daily life off our souls." ~ Pablo Picasso

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Art Day in The Gambia

The AFABW Gambia Chapter Celebrated Creative Independence for World Art Day on 11 April 2026 at the Geneiri Village.

The event was produced by AFABW Gambia Chapter Director Fabakary Sanneh, who made it a success with 425 attendees that included 350 children and 75 elders. The event was held in true artistic style with cultural dress and performances, and included singing, dancing and poetry readings. More than 125 *Get High on Art* *Say No to Drugs* coloring books given to the kids.



There were 75 T-Shirts distributed bearing the chapter logo. Kids learned about drug abuse and good moral choices, with 150 Truth about Drugs booklets distributed and 50 *The Way to Happiness* books distributed.



"The parents are very happy about the activities and want to continue. The activities engaged children on positive social interactions. The local authorities joined the celebration at the official opening that show its relevance to the communities." - Fabakary Sanneh

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**"The world is only as free as it allows its
artists to be." ~ Rick Rubin**